

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SAJ-01 SY-05 OPR-02 PER-01 /068 W

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P R 100957Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9714

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BM

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

REF: RANGOON 1534

1. DESPITE GOVERNMENT CLOSING OF UNIVERSITY JUNE 9 (REFTEL), SMALL SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUED AROUND RANGOON JUNE 10. SOME STUDENTS WERE SEEN PACKING AND LEAVING UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BUT OTHERS REMAINED AND MADE FORAYS INTO DOWNTOWN RANGOON CHANTING ANTI-GOVERNMENT SLOGANS. A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PERSONS, LED BY STUDENTS BUT CONSISTING LARGELY OF STREET KIDS AND PERHAPS A FEW WORKERS, PASSED THE CHANCERY AT NOON. SECURITY FORCES THOUGH POSTED ON ALERT AT KEY INTERSECTIONS, HAVE REMAINED INCONSPICUOUS. PROTESTORS HAVE APPARENTLY RETURNED TO UNIVERSITY MAIN CAMPUS, ALTHOUGH SOME ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN REFUGE AT THE SHWEDAGON PAGODA. AMCONSUL MANDALAY REPORTS JUNE 9 STUDENT PROTESTS ENDED PEACEFULLY AND CITY QUIET.

2. GUB RATIONALE FOR CLOSING UNIVERSITY CARRIED BY PRESS JUNE 10. STATEMENT LISTS THE VARIOUS "LAWLESS DEEDS" COMMITTED BY STUDENTS AND LAYS THE BLAME SQUARELY ON THE BCP. IT CO ENDS THAT STUDENT DEMANDS "ARE NOTHING BUT ECHOES OF INSURGENT BCP SLOGANS". IN
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FACT, RUMOR IS FAIRLY WIDESPREAD (AND BELIEVED IN SOME QUARTERS)

THAT PRC IS AIDING PROTESTERS FINANCIALLY. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED CALL NIGHT OF JUNE 9 ALLEGEDLY FROM A STUDENT AT CONVOCATION HALL DENYING BCP INVOLVEMENT, DESCRIBING STUDENTS' FOUR DEMANDS (REF-TEL), AND SEEKING U.S. ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEORY OF SIGNIFICANT BCP OR PRC INVOLVEMENT.

3. ON THE LABOR FRONT, JUTE MILL, TEXTILE MILL AND INSEIN RAILWAY REPAIR SHOP WHICH HAD BEEN ON SITDOWN STRIKE CLOSED COMPLETELY JUNE 9.

4. GUB EVIDENTLY IS MAINTAINING ITS POLICY OF NON-CONFRONTATION; AUTHORITIES HAVE YET TO INTERFERE WITH ANY OF THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES. PARTY CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTINUE TO MEET WITH WORKERS AROUND THE COUNTRY TO EXPLAIN GUB POLICIES BUT MEETINGS IN RANGOON REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED. (THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT RASU RECTOR DR. MAUNG MAUCI KHA HAS SUBMITTED RESIGNATION BECAUSE GUB IGNORED HIS RECOMMENDATION AGAINST APPEARANCE OF CEC MEMBER DR. HLA HAN ON CAMPUS.) SHOULD HARD CORE OF STUDENT ACTIVISTS OCCUPY UNIVERSITY FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME, GUB MAY AGAIN MOVE ON TO THE CAMPUS. MFA ADVISED FOREIGN MISSIONS JUNE 9 TO AVOID CAMPUS.

OSBORN

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